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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06

IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 XMB-04 COME-00 EA-09

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R 170714Z SEP 75
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 6149

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, PO
SUBJ: SPEECH BEFORE FRANKFURT SPD

1. CULMINATING A TWO-DAY STAY IN GERMANY AT THE INVITATION OF THE SOUTH HESSEN SPD, THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF PORTUGAL, MARIO SOARES, SPOKE BEFORE A CROWD OF ROUGHLY 1500 LOYAL SPD MEMBERS OF ALL AGES IN FRANKFURT LAST NIGHT. IN HIS TALK SOARES TOUCHED AGAIN ON THE THEMES HE HAD MENTIONED DURING HIS ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY. THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WAS, HE SAID, A CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO REVOLUTIONARY PATHS. THE ONE SEEKING SOCIALISM WITH THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN A CEMOCRATIC AND FREE SOCIETY; THE OTHER SEEKING BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE TO COME TO POWER AND IMPOSE A TOTALITARIAN DOCTATORSHIP UPON THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. BUT EVEN THOUGH HE, TOO, HAD ON OCCASION DOUBTED THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME THE PEOPLE HAD MADE THEIR WISHES KNOWN, ARISEN, AND THROWN OUT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. HE HAD CONFIDENCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE DOWN THE PATH OF DEMOCRATIC
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SOCIALISM, WITH ELECTIONS TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR.

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HOWEVER, THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARE IMMENSE AND AID
IS NEEDED, BUT WITHOUT CONDITIONS. (SOARES RECEIVED HIS
LARGEST AND MOST SPONTANEOUS OVATION WHEN HE MENTIONED
THE NECESSITY IN PORTUGAL OF NATIONALIZING THE BANKS.)

2. JOINING SOARES AT THE ROSTRUM WERE SPD CHAIRMAN,
WILLY BRANDT, AND SOUTH HESSEN SPD CHIEF, RUDI ARNDT.
MAINTAINING HIS CREDENTIALS AS AN SPD LEFTWINGER, ARNDT
IN HIS INTRODUCTION, SET THE TONE WITH ATTACTS ON
THOSE WHO REPRESS FREEDOM--WHETHER EAST OR WEST--AND
ON THOSE WHO ARE SILENT ABOUT WESTERN DICTATORSHIPS,
BECOMING ALARMED ONLY WHEN COMMUNISTS ENDANGER FREEDOMS.
THIS, HE CLAIMED, WAS NOT A DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY OR FREEDOM
BUT FEAR FOR PROPERTY. ARNDT COULD NOT RESIST A REFERENCE
TO VIETNAM.

3. WILLY BRANDT IN A LOOSELY JOINTED BUT AGGRESSIVE
SPEECH WENT BEYOND WORDS OF FRIENDSHIP FOR THE
PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS. NOTING THAT THE FRANCO REGIME
HAD SEIZED POWER ALMOST 40 YEARS AGO HE STATED TO THE
EVIDENT JOY OF THE CROWD THAT THE SIGNS WERE IT WOULDNT
BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THIS ANNIVERSARY, ADDING THAT
THE SPD WOULD FIRMLY SUPPORT THEIR SPANISH BRETHREN.

4. BRANDT ALSO PILLAROED THOSE WHO ROSE IN ANGER
OVER THE COMMUNIST ACTIONS IN PORTUGAL BUT HAD
EARLIER ATTACKED SOARES AS 3/4 COMMUNIST AND REMAINED
SILENT DURING THE MANY YEARS OF ONE MAN RULE. HE
POINTED OUT THAT ITALIAN COMMUNISTS, SCANDINAVIAN
SOCIALISTS, AND GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE
UNITED IN ONE THING AT LEAST--THEIR INDIGNATION OVER
THE TREATMENT OF DUBCEK. STRONGLY SUPPORTING AID
WITHOUT CONDITIONS FOR PORTUGAL, BRANDT ALSO CONDEMMED
THOSE "ADVENTURERS" WHO SOUGHT TO INTERVENE IN PORTUGAL.
THEY MUST, HE SAID, BE EMPHATICALLY WARNED. HE DECLINED
TO "SPELL OUT" WHO HE MEANT. RESPONDING TO AN INTERRUPTION
IN THE HALL, HE PRAISED THE SOUTH HESSEN SPD FOR THEIR
DOUBTING, QUESTIONING ATTITUDE, BUT REMINED THEM LATER
IN THE EVENING THAT THE SPD ITSELF HAD GONE THROUGH
A TIME OF TRIAL, EXHORTING THEM TO REMEMBER THAT IN
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TIME TO COME THEY MIGHT HAVE NEED OF THE SOLIDARITY
THAT ONCE BEFORE HAD ENABLED THE PARTY TO SURVIVE. BRANDT
WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY SALVOS OF APPLAUSE.
IT WAS EVIDENT THAT IN THIS VERY RADICAL PARTY
DISTRICT HE STILL ENJOYS TREMENDOUS RESPECT AND
POPULARITY.

5. RADICAL GROUPS, THE LARGEST LED BY DANIEL COHN-BENDIT,

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ORGANIZED A DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING THE VISIT OF THE
"COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY", SOARES; CAUSING THE LOCAL
SPD TO INSTITUTE STRICT MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT
ONLY PARTY FAITHFUL HAD ACCESS TO THE HALL. DESPITE
THE PROCLAIMED FIGURE OF 2000, THE GENEROUS POLICE
ESTIMATE IS THAT ONLY ABOUT 400 SHOWED UP BEFORE THE
AUDITORIUM SHOUTING SLOGANS. POLICE AND PARTY CONTROL
MEASURES WERE MORE THAN ADEQUATE, HOWEVER, TO PREVENT
THEIR DOING MORE THAN ADDING COLOR TO THE SCENE.LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FRANKF06149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750321-1186
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750941/aaaabjtd.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEECH BEFORE FRANKFURT SPD
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GE, PO, SPD, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006